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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Hon. Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated January 23, 2004, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this submission.

The Applicants filed concurrent with this Response a Request for Continued Examination along with a Request for an Extension of Time to respond to this Office Action. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.